would be possible to judge the contribution of the South Commission towards achieving greater equity among world nations, only after the submission of the final report.

(b) India has programmes of bilateral co-operation with a large number of developing countries. In addition, India is playing an active role in all multilateral forums dealing with the subject of South-South co-operation. India took the initiative in covening the first Ministerial Meeting of the Global System of Trade Preference (GSTP) and actively participated in the negotiations leading to the Agreement on GSTP signed in Belgrade this year. We propose to contribute further to building on it and expanding its scope.

We propose to hold the meeting of the Governing Council of the NAM Centre on Science and Technology which is located in Delhi and is provisionally operational.

At India's initiative, the first meetng of an inter-governmental Consultative Conference of Experts on New and High Technologies was held in New Delhi in October 1988. We intend to take follow-up action on several cooperative programmes and activities indentified in the five themes considered in the Conference, i.e. informatics and telecommunications, micro-electronics and computer software, bio-technology, renewable sources of energy, and new materials technology.

The Government of India has contributed US $ 400,000 to the South Commission Dr. Man Mohan Singh, former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. is the Secretary-General of the South Commission. The Commission also has another Indian as a member.

Inland Transport Services from Calcutta to Allahabad

767. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhagirathi-Ganga stretch from Calcutta to Allahabad has been declared as No. 1 National Waterways;

(b) whether it is a fact that the construction of Lock Gate at Farakka has already been completed to facilitate the inland water transport for Calcutta-Allahabad stretch;

(c) whether adequate funds have been released for starting the inland transport services; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for delay in commissioning the service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Central Inland Water Transport Corporation is already running regular river service between Haldia|Calcutta and Patna. The stretch between Patna and Allahabad is not now navigable round the year.

Non-Payment of Tribal Allowance to the Staff of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Nepanagar

768. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government in the recent past have ordered payment of tribal allowance to the Central Government employees serving in tribal areas;

(b) if so, hwat are the areas|reigons earmarked as tribal in MP;

(c) whether Nepanagar is situated in one such area; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for non-payment of the allowance to the employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Nepanagar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (d) The orders as contained in Ministry of Finance O.M. No. 20022|3|87-E.II(B) dated 9.6.1987 have been extended to Kendriya

Vidyalayas Sangathan employees Nepanager is not included in these orders.

Enactment of Code for Breast Feeding

769. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3989 given in the Rajya Sabha on 31st August 1988 and state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestions from various organisations|individuals for early enactment and enforcement of the Code for protection and promotion of breast feeding, including the advertisements of infant foods; and

(b) if so, what follow up action has been taken or is proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Infant Milk Foods and Feeding Bottles Bill, 1986 has been passed by the Rajya Sabha. The Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, is being amended and is proposed to be introduced in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in the current session.

Tourist Traffic Affected by Visa-Restrictions

770. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Hotel Association, which met in Delhi in October 1988, have complained that visa restrictions on tourists are adversely affecting the tourist traffic; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to remove such restrictions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Visa restrictions are imposed on the basis of reciprocity. The Indian Diplomatic Missions overseas normally clear visa applications fairly expeditiously.

12.00 Noon

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notifications of the Ministry of Surface Transport (Port wing)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Surface Transport (Ports Wing):—

(i) G.S.R. No. 712(E), dated the 17th June, 1988, publishing the Calcutta Port Trust Employees' (Pension) Regulations, 1988.

(ii) G.S.R. No. 886(E), dated the 30th August, 1988, publishing the Cochin Port Employees (General Provident Fund) Amendment Regulations, 1988.

(iii) G.S.R. No. 900(E), dated the 5th September, 1988, publishing the Visakhapatnam Port Employees, (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 1988.

(iv) G.S.R. No. 913(E), dated the 8th September, 1988, publishing the Kandla Port Employees (Reimbursement of Tuition Fees) (Amendment) Regulations, 1988.

(v) G.S.R. No. 917(E), dated the 9th September, 1988, publishing the approval of the Calcutta Port Trust Employees (Other than Haldia Dock Complex) Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) First Amendment Regulations, 1988.